



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **JANUARY 20, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John Hammargren
Anne S. Hill
Carl Moore

Guest

Barbara Butler, Department of Children & Family Services
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children & Family Services
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children & Family Services
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Michael Varela, Probation Department

Staff

Lee Millen
Nyla Jefferson

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chairperson Montaña welcomed everyone and a self-introduction followed.

Department of Children and Family Services

Ms. Howard, DCFS, reported that since the last Business Meeting there have been 11 referrals for general neglect, 7 are pending, 3 evaluated out (reported to child support hotline because they were not a DCFS child), and 1 was determined unfounded. The physical abuse report states 1 evaluated out and 1 is under investigation. For the sexual abuse referrals there was 1 substantiated validation and 1 is pending. Runaway data is unavailable at this time. When a sexual abuse case is substantiated it is usually a staff person which involves the police, and the perpetrator is placed on a child abuse index with possible jail time.

Dorothy Channel, DCFS, announced that Enrique Philippe, Executive Director of Careprovider Org. Foundation in West Covina, recently passed away.

Ms. Channel announced that Elizabeth Howard received a Departmental award for Outstanding Employee from Director Patricia Ploehn.

Ms. Howard reported that DCFS is now charged with the responsibility of writing the Group Home Compliance Monitoring Reports. There are two reports on the DCFS website under the category "About Us." The present format will be amended to include a matrix with each report including a brief overview. Commissioner Hammagren requested that staff add the Reports on next week's Commission agenda for review.

Internal Services Department

Michael Henderson, Division Manager, Maintenance & Operation, reported that the Department receives about 12,000 calls for service each month and has a 90% completion rate. The Chief Executive Officer has requested ISD's assistance in identifying cost savings. The ISD is responsible for paying the electrical bills throughout the County, and their new responsibility as energy advisors is to assist clients and non clients in saving energy/money. Since July 1, 2009, the state has been acquiring at least one courthouse a month. However, ISD will provide maintenance for the County's exclusive space in the Courthouses. The County will keep approximately 20 Courthouses, and the State of California is considering closing the smaller courts.

Probation Department

Michael Varela, Probation Department, announced that since the Department of Justice now oversees camps the Dorothy Kirby Center is placed under a Camp category; the DOJ has offered to provide the camp more therapists for the evenings and weekends. The ISD has not received any reports about flooding or debris at camps from the current storm. Kirby Center's laundry room and library are under consideration for repair. Camp Louis Routh has been temporarily closed because of septic tank problems.

Vice Chairperson Bacio thanked Mr. Varela for the wonderful Kirby Center program Commissioners attended in December 2009. Commissioner Moore requested that staff report back on the camps acquisition of video cameras.

Lisa Campbell-Motten, Probation Department, reported that a survey is being conducted of I Tracks; about 1000 are received each month. In one month, about 233 substance abuse issues were documented by Group Homes. Due to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights staff is unable to conduct searches of youth and group homes. The CCL has been contacted concerning this issue and to establish a method to investigate incidences. One approach may be a court order from a judge for staff to search youth. The 2009 Child Abuse Investigations entailed 142 Group Home monitoring investigations that included 41 child abuse accusations, 17 substantiated (10 were general neglect [lack of supervision], 6 physical abuse accusations [2 inconclusive and 4 substantiated], and 1 sexual abuse accusation [relationship with staff]. The Group Home, Children Are Our Future is working closely on these issues with Probation staff, and the Constance House is on Do Not Use and is under quality control monitoring. Also, the Eddie Lee and Florence Crittenden Group Homes are being monitored.

A Peer Quality Case Review session will be held on June 7-11, 2010; Commissioners were invited to participate in the focus groups. PQCR will critique 16 DCFS and 14 Probation case files and optimistically the case review will provide a wealth of information for the departments to utilize. The Legal Guardianship Permanency Committee meets monthly and there are two children being considered for adoption.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Ruiz, LASD, distributed photos of the new South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station with an anticipated opening in April 2010. A new Central Jail is in the planning stages with a completion date in 2014; the \$1.2 billion project's plans may be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors in February 2010. The old Central Jail will be razed and the new jail built in its place in three phases. LCMC's sally port was repaired on December 18, 2009 and is operational. Also, lockers are available to female officers, supervisors, sergeants and lieutenants; deputies' lockers are across the street. The Racial Demographics in Jails and Inmate Assault Statistics on Staff were also distributed.

Commissioner Hall suggested that the Pico Rivera Sheriff Station's jailers' methods for identifying exits in emergencies and the jail's organization be standardized in county jails. Also, the Airport Courthouse staff should be commended for their innovativeness in storing inmate's personal property and their practices standardized in county jails. Commissioner Moore's reported at an inspection at CRDF there were only two sergeants overseeing the entire operation. There were no hard lieutenants, acting captain, or sergeants on the premises. The information requested by Commissioners has not been faxed to the Commission office.

Mental Health Department

No representative in attendance.

Community Care Licensing

No representative in attendance.

Chairperson Montaña thanked everyone for an excellent report.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammagren, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2010 were approved with the following correction:

On page 3, under East Los Angeles Courthouse, second sentence should read, "The ~~station~~ courthouse would ..."

CHAIR'S REPORT

- A letter requesting a donation for Human Trafficking was received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 208.83.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS

There was none.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JANUARY 14, 2010 TO JANUARY 19, 2010

Boys Town of California – 4, #4 – Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on January 7, 2010, and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Foster Youth Rights and Chore List were not displayed.

House of Bethesda – 25, #3 – Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hall The facility was visited on January 14, 2010, and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Care Provider Org. Foundation – 5, #2 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on January 14, 2010, and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** All three bedroom carpets cleaned, need closet curtains, and two locks for the medicine storage.

San Gabriel Children's Center – 41, #4 – Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on January 19, 2010, and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Door frame broken in bedroom #1.

Bellflower Courthouse –Chairperson Montaña The facility was visited on January 19, 2010, and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Sonya Love Guidance Center – 43, #1 –Commissioner Moore The facility was visited on January 19, 2010, and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Bedrooms #2 & 3 smoke detectors missing batteries. Fire drills not conducted. Cabinet above the stove needs cleaning; it has large amounts of grease splatters. No evacuation plan.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hammagren requested an updated organizational roster from the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Hill has found a candidate for the Commission's scholarship. The Commission requested an updated scholarship application. Discussion ensued on utilizing Trade Tech College to identify scholars; create a tracking system to follow progress of awardees; obtain information about scholars at the next Business Meeting from DCFS and Probation Department; and host the scholarship awards reception in room 372. The deadline to submit the application is April 30, 2010. Staff is to prepare the application for hand-outs at the next meeting.

Commissioner Moore announced that Group Homes are required to post menus and retain them for at least 30 days. Pesticides should not be stored in the kitchen area. Also, a vehicle maintenance log is required.

Commissioner Moore requested that quarterly reports show inspection data in alphabetical order, and that racial demographics received be categorized per jail detention facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda.)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m. in memory of the victims of Haiti's Earthquake.